

### **REMARKS**

Claim 1 was pending in the Application. After entry of this amendment, Claims 2-18 are pending. Claims 2-18 were added and then Claim 1 was canceled without Prejudice. Applicants submit this Amendment in order to further clarify the invention described and claimed, without regard to any prior art.

Applicant submits that the Claims as amended are supported by the application as filed and do not add new matter. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner precisely identify teachings or suggestions in the prior art that would preclude patentability of the pending claims in the event that the Examiner is not in a position to allow the claims now pending.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**". Attached hereto is a clean version of the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**PENDING CLAIMS**".

The Application being in condition for allowance, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extension of time or additional claims, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. A-70543-2/RMA/KRG).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/30/03

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

1. (Canceled)

2. (New) A method for a computer repairing itself to an operational status at any time during operation, the method comprising the computer-executed steps of:

booting from a first hard disk drive boot device disposed within a main computer hardware box of the computer;

then, in response to receiving a signal indicating a need for repair of the computer during the booting or during any operating state, booting from a second hard disk drive boot device; the second hard disk drive boot device being physically present within the main computer hardware box of the computer prior to receiving the signal indicating a need for repair; and

then repairing software on the first hard disk drive boot device while booted from the second hard disk drive boot device and selectively either: (i) maintaining operation of the computer from the second boot device to restore operational status of the computer during repairing of the software on the first hard disk device, or (ii) changing to operation of the computer from the second boot device to the first boot device to restore operational status of the computer.

3. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of repairing software further comprises:

copying software from a device other than the first boot device onto the first boot device.

4. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of copying software further comprises:

copying any of application, operating-system and repair-process software.

5. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of copying software further comprises:

copying any of a boot record, a partition table, and a basic input-output system (BIOS).

6. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of repairing software further comprises:

1 copying software from the second boot device onto the first boot device.

2  
3 7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of repairing software further  
4 comprises:

5 copying one of template, backup and archive software from a device other than the  
6 first boot device onto the first boot device.

7  
8 8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of repairing comprises:  
9 copying one of template, backup and archive software from the second boot device  
10 onto the first boot device.

11  
12 9. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of booting from a second boot  
13 device comprises:

14 switching the second boot device, thereby making the second boot device bootable.

15  
16 10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of switching comprises:  
17 generating the signal indicating a need for repair.

18  
19 11. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of booting from a second boot  
20 device comprises:

21 logically switching the second boot device.

22  
23 12. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of booting from a second boot  
24 device comprises:

25 physically switching the second boot device.

26  
27 13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of physically switching  
28 comprises:

29 altering identification jumpers of a data storage device to be switched.

30  
31 14. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of physically switching  
32 comprises:

33 turning on or off the power to a data storage device to be switched.

1           15.     (New) A computer system comprising:  
2           a communication device for communicating over a communications link to a second  
3 computer system,  
4           a port for communicatively coupling said computer system and said communication  
5 device over a bus having a plurality of data lines; and  
6           a switch coupled within said data line selected from said plurality of data lines for  
7 enabling and disabling said communication device.  
8

9           16.     (New) The computer system of claim 15 wherein said communication device  
10 is a network interface card disposed within a main computer hardware box and said switch is  
11 affixed to said network interface card.  
12

13           17.     (New) A method for a computer repairing itself to an operational status at any  
14 time during operation, the method comprising the computer-executed steps of:

15           booting from a first hard disk drive boot device disposed within a main computer  
16 hardware box of the computer;

17           then, in response to receiving a signal indicating a need for repair of the computer  
18 during the booting or during any operating state, booting from a second hard disk drive boot  
19 device; the second hard disk drive boot device being physically present within the main  
20 computer hardware box of the computer prior to receiving the signal indicating a need for  
21 repair; and

22           then repairing software on the first hard disk drive boot device while booted from the  
23 second hard disk drive boot device and selectively either: (i) maintaining operation of the  
24 computer from the second boot device to restore operational status of the computer during  
25 repairing of the software on the first hard disk device, or (ii) changing to operation of the  
26 computer from the second boot device to the first boot device to restore operational status of  
27 the computer.  
28

29           18.     (New) The method of claim 17, wherein:  
30           the step of repairing software further comprises:

31           (i) copying software from a device other than the first boot device onto the first boot  
32 device, and the step of copying software further comprises copying any of application,  
33 operating-system and repair-process software, wherein such copying may include copying  
34 any of a boot record, a partition table, and a basic input-output system (BIOS);

1 (ii) copying software from the second boot device onto the first boot device, and  
2 either or both of copying one of template, backup and archive software from a device other  
3 than the first boot device onto the first boot device and copying one of template, backup and  
4 archive software from the second boot device onto the first boot device;

5 the step of booting from a second boot device comprises switching the second boot  
6 device, thereby making the second boot device bootable, and the step of switching comprises  
7 generating the signal indicating a need for repair;

8 the signal is generated by a user altering the state of a physical switch different from  
9 an on-off switch of the computer and exposed on an exterior surface of the main computer  
10 hardware box of the computer;

11 the step of automatically repairing software comprises automatically repairing  
12 software on the first boot device without further direction from the user including repairing  
13 software on the first boot device according to preset preferences; the repairing according to  
14 preset preferences includes repairing according to whether to recover data, to run a virus  
15 check, to reformat the first boot device, to revert to a backup, to run diagnostics;

16 the step of repairing software further includes resetting parameters in a persistent  
17 memory; and then copying software onto the first boot device;

18 wherein before the step of booting from the second boot device, installing software  
19 onto the second boot device, the step of installing software onto the second boot device  
20 comprises one procedure from the following set of procedures: installing software onto the  
21 second boot device, copying installed software onto the second boot device copying  
22 installation software onto the second boot device, and writing onto the second boot device a  
23 version of an operating environment running as a result of the boot from the first boot device.  
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